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Secretariat

8 July 2005

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **Hourly wage for household employees on G-5 visas**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff members who hold a G-4 visa and employ a household employee to whom a G-5 visa has been granted of a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations, attached in the annex to the present circular, regarding the increase in hourly wage to be paid to such household employees.

2. The United States Mission recalled that, for all hours worked, personal servants, attendants and domestic workers who are in the United States in G-5 visa status must be paid the greater of the minimum wage under federal or state law or the prevailing wage in the location where they are employed.

3. According to the United States Department of Labor's 2005 wage determination for domestic employees, the prevailing hourly wage has been raised to $9.86 for the New York City metropolitan area. As this amount exceeds the federal minimum wage, **effective 10 June 2005**, all domestic employees on G-5 visas in the New York City metropolitan area should be paid according to the new prevailing wage.

4. All new contracts between domestic workers and their employers should reflect the increased amounts.

* The present circular will be in effect until further notice.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 10 June 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Unites States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to refer to its diplomatic circular HC-131-04(S) dated November 1, 2004 regarding the employment of personal servants, attendants and domestic workers who are in the United States in non-immigrant G-5 visa status. The United Nations Secretariat and, in particular, its Visa Committee will note that for all hours worked, such domestic workers must be paid the greater of the minimum wage under federal and state law or the prevailing wage in the location where they are employed.

The United States Mission wishes to inform the United Nations Secretariat that according to the Department of Labor's 2005 wage determination for domestic employees, the prevailing hourly wage has been raised to $9.86 per hour in the New York City metropolitan area. As this amount exceeds the federal minimum wage of $5.15 per hour, effective as of the date of this note, all domestic employees should be paid according to the new prevailing wage. In addition, all new contracts between domestic workers and their employers should reflect the increased amount.